

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3185

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 4756

ATTN: AID-AFR/DP ROBERT HUESMANN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AID TO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 227468; (B) STOCKHOLM 4041

1. EMBASSY MET WITH SIDA OFFICIAL (MRS. ASTRID BERQUIST) IN EFFORT OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL (A). VERY LITTLE CONCRETE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED OTHER THAN FACT THAT SWEDISH ASSISTANCE IS RESTRICTED LARGELY TO "HUMANITARIAN" COMMODITY AID WITH NO SWEDISH PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN RECIPIENT AREA TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS.

2. IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN REF (A), SWEDEN HAS NO FORMAL EDUCATION OR TRAINING PROGRAM IN ANY PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES; ASSISTANCE IS LIMITED TO PROVIDING FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO SMALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN GUINEA BISSAU, PLUS SMALL AMOUNTS TO MEET OPERATIONAL COSTS. THERE ARE NO AGRICULTURAL OR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; SWEDES HAVE SUPPLIED HOWEVER SMALL QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL HAND TOOLS. DONOR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES DOES NOT EXIST EXCEPT FOR (A) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH DENMARK AND NORWAY, AND (B) COORDINA-

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TION WITHIN UNESCO FRAMEWORK.

3. SWEDES HAVE GIVEN PRIMARY ATTENTION TO GUINEA-BISSAU WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN MORE FORMAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. SIDA, THE AID IMPLEMENTING ARM OF GOS, HAS ASKED FOR INCREASED FUNDS IN FISCAL YEAR 1975/76, BUT INCREASE WAS BASED ON GOS COMMITMENT TO INCREASE OVERALL AID AND NOT ON ANY DETAILED PROGRAM PLAN. REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SWEDISH TECHNICAL PERSONNEL OR AGAIN TRAINING PERSONNEL FROM RECIPIENT AREAS, BERQUIST SAID SWEDEN IS SHORT OF PERSONNEL AND IF TECHNICIANS ARE NEEDED, THE AID RECIPIENTS MAY HAVE TO USE SWEDISH FUNDS TO RECRUIT FROM OTHER AREAS. ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL FROM GUINEA-BISSAU HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN SWEDEN. IN THIS INSTANCE, A MEDICAL DOCTOR, THE TRAINEE WAS KILLED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETING COURSE.

4. COMMENT. IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT GOS ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES -- AND PERHAPS TO OTHER AREAS -- HAS BEEN DECIDED MORE ON GROUNDS OF "POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS" RATHER THAN A SURVEY OF NEEDS OR A WELL-CONSIDERED AID PROGRAM. IN THIS REGARD, WHEN ASKED WHETHER ANY CHECK HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING EFFICACY OF SWEDISH AID TO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, BERQUIST CONCEDED THAT NO SIDA-SPONSORED ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY HAS BEEN MADE. REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES, SHE SAID, INDICATED AID TO GUINEA-BISSAU WAS BEING USED WELL AND THUS ASSISTANCE WAS BEING EXPANDED. FRELIMO IN MOZAMBIQUE AND MPLA IN ANGOLA WILL ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY GOS IN COMING YEARS, DEPENDING UPON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AFFECTED AREAS. EMBASSY WILL SEND UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM A FOREIGN OFFICE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF COLONIALISM AND APARTHEID IN AFRICA", OBTAINED FROM SIDA. DOCUMENT PROVIDES FURTHER DETAILS ON NATURE OF ASSISTANCE.

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